

REMARKS

The Official Action dated October 17, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and new claim 4 has been added in order to better define that which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-4 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the Office Action that claim 3 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, new claim 4 has been added wherein dependent claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of original independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 4 distinguishes over the prior art of record and is in proper condition for allowance.

Further, with respect to the Prior Art referred to on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Edwards 93,165,257) and Fraser (998,889) are cited to show centrifugal fan impellers having through holes on each base plate." However, the Examiner's form 892 does not include an indication of Fraser (998,889), but instead includes U.S. Patent No. 4,186,320 issued to Hillman. It is noted that U.S. Patent No. 998,889 does relate to centrifugal fans and consequently, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate consideration of this reference in the next office communication.

With reference now to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,307,312 issued to Whiting. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Whiting neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicant's claimed invention.

As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a centrifugal blower fan comprising; a base plate; and a plurality of blades

arranged on the base plate in a radial pattern to define a plurality of air passages between the pairs of adjacent blades, respectively, wherein a portion of said base plate, serving as a bottom wall of each of the air passages, is formed with a plurality of through-holes, wherein the plurality of through-holes are formed only in the range of approximately one-half the length of a downstream portion of the bottom wall. Clearly, these features are neither disclosed in nor remotely suggested by the teachings of Whiting.

Initially, it is noted that the patent to Whiting discloses an abrading wheel whereas the present invention relates to a centrifugal blower fan. Moreover, while the wheel disclosed in Whiting includes openings formed in the base, such openings are provided to permit a flow of air through the wheel body which will aid in carrying heat from the wheel (Page 2, left column, lines 11-14) to avoid overheating the material being ground by the abrading wheel (page 1, left column, lines 45 and 46). The function and the effect of the openings relate to the nature of the abrading wheel and do not relate to the present invention which is directed to the minimization of noise in a centrifugal blower fan. That is, in accordance with the present invention, the through holes function to minimize the noise generated by the fan and are not provided for the cooling purpose. In the centrifugal blower fan in accordance with the present invention, the noise generated by the fan are significantly reduced. Further, in accordance with the present invention, the plurality of through-holes are formed only in the range of approximately one-half the length of a downstream portion of the bottom wall of the base plate or over approximately the last third of the bottom wall. The trough holes formed in the abrading wheel of Whiting for cooling the treated article are not provided only in the range of approximately one-half the length of a downstream portion of the bottom wall. Further, because Whiting is not concerned with the reduction in noise generated by the abrading wheel, the positioning of the through holes for noise reduction purposes is not of concern, only that a sufficient amount of air be drawn into the wheel. Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1, as amended, clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Whiting and is in proper condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Official Action, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 44 03 224 A1 issued to Varnhorst et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the publication to Varnhorst et al. neither discloses nor suggests that which is presently set forth by Applicant's claimed invention.

Again, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a centrifugal blower fan comprising; a base plate; and a plurality of blades arranged on the base plate in a radial pattern to define a plurality of air passages between the pairs of adjacent blades, respectively, wherein a portion of said base plate, serving as a bottom wall of each of the air passages, is formed with a plurality of through-holes, wherein the plurality of through-holes are formed only in the range of approximately one-half the length of a downstream portion of the bottom wall. Such features are neither disclosed in nor remotely suggested by the teachings of Varnhorst et al.

While the patent to Varnhorst is directed to a centrifugal fan, the through holes are not provided only in the range of approximately one-half the length of a downstream portion of the bottom wall as is now specifically recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1, as amended, clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Varnhorst et al. and is in proper condition for allowance.

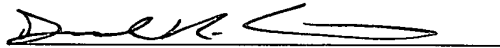
With respect to new independent claim 4, as noted hereinabove, new claim 4 is previous dependent claim 3 rewritten in independent for including all of the limitations of original independent claim 1. Further, dependent claim 2 has been amended in order to depend from new independent claim 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new

independent claim 4, as well as dependent claim 2, distinguish over the prior art of record and are in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-4 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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